

Remarks

Claims 132-167 and 182-204 are pending in this application. Claims 132-147, 149-167, 182-186, 187, 192, 193, 195, 199-201, 203, and 204 were rejected, and claims 148, 185, 188-191, 194, 196-198, and 202 were objected to. The present response amends claims 148, 185, 188-90, 194, and 196-198 and cancels claims 1-147, 149-184, 186, 187, 191 – 195, and 199 – 218. No new matter is added by these changes. Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of the case, as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 143-145, 153, and 155 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. These claims have been canceled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 132-138, 149-155, 157, 159, 161, and 162 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruchman ‘712. These claims have been canceled.

Claims 132-138, 143-145, 149-155, 157, 159, 161, 162, 182, 186, 187, 192, 195, 203, and 204 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruchman ‘266. These claims have been canceled.

Claims 132-138, 149-155, 157-159, 161, 162, 182, 186, 187, 192, 193, 195, 203, and 204 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruchman ‘383. These claims have been canceled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 132 and 139-141 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over any one of Bruchman ‘712, Bruchman ‘266, or Bruchman ‘383. These claims have been canceled.

Claims 132, 146, and 147 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Bruchman '712 in view of Niklason, *et al.* These claims have been canceled.

Claims 132, 146, 147, 182-184, 200, and 201 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over either one of Bruchman '266 or Bruchman '383 in view of Niklason, *et al.* These claims have been canceled.

Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 148, 185, 188-191, 194, and 196-198 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While Applicant maintains that the rejected claims are patentably distinct from the prior art, claims 148, 185, 188-190, 194, and 196-198 have presently been rewritten in independent form, thereby removing the objection, without prejudice to later pursuit of the rejected claims. As noted by the Examiner, claim 191 was a duplicate of claim 188 and has therefore been canceled.

In light of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present case is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If, at any time, it appears that a phone discussion would be helpful or if questions arise regarding the amendment proposed above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (617) 248-5071.

Please charge any fees associated with this filing, or apply any credits, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,


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